

THE  
**FUTURE  
OF  
AMERICA'S  
NATIONAL  
PARKS**

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



**Site:** CRMO

**Year:** 2007

**Vision Statement**

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve will protect resources so that natural processes remain the dominant agents of change. Habitat will support a diverse range of native wildlife species that provide high-quality opportunities for wildlife-based recreation. The public will enjoy a range of recreational and educational opportunities that instills a passion to protect Monument and global resources. The public will have opportunities to learn and appreciate the Monument's diverse history, prehistory and important cultural resources. Traditional cultural properties of Native American tribes and access to those properties will be preserved for the use and benefit of current and future tribal members. Future generations will enjoy the enduring wilderness resources of the Craters of the Moon wilderness, including its conservation, scientific, cultural, educational, and recreational benefits. The Monument will build and maintain positive relationships with visitor user groups and educational organizations. Partnerships with off-site facilities, such as visitor centers and state parks will provide Monument information and interpretation. Gateway and other nearby communities will benefit economically and socially from the presence of the Monument.

**Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager**

Doug Neighbor

Site: CRMO

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

☒ Rehabilitate high-priority historic buildings to good condition, and help communities to preserve their history through programs like Preserve America.

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve will rehabilitate 100% of its historic structures to good condition.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

☒ Restore native habitats by controlling invasive species and reintroducing key plant and animal species.

Annual grasslands and highly degraded sagebrush steppe communities will be restored to achieve a mosaic of shrubs, forbs, and grasses capable of sustaining native animal populations. Restoration projects will be prioritized relative to locations of key Grater sage-grouse habitats and population strongholds. Integrated weed management principles will be used to detect and eradicate all new infestations of noxious weeds, control existing infestation, and prevent the establishment and spread of weeds within and adjacent to the Monument.

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Site: CRMO

ENVIRONMENT

☒ Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

☒ Reduce the environmental impacts of park operations on air and water quality.

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve will double the number of alternative fuel vehicles in its fleet.

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Site: CRMO

**ENVIRONMENT**

☒ Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

☒ Demonstrate environmental excellence through increased use of alternative energy and fuels at every park.

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve will install a photovoltaic system capable of generating 36KWH of green energy in the headquarters area of CRMO, which will tie the PV system to the grid and offset 20% of the power needs normally purchased. In addition, interpretive programs will be expanded to include the benefits of using renewable energy systems, such as photovoltaic, to visitors.

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Site: CRMO

**RECREATION**

☒ Encourage collaboration among and assist park and recreation systems at every level—federal, regional, state, local—to help build an outdoor recreation network accessible to all Americans.

☒ Rehabilitate over 2,000 miles of trails within or connected to national parks, including trails accessible to those with disabilities.

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve will increase the number of accessible trails two-fold. In addition, the Monument will construct accessible trails to its entrance signs so that all visitors will be able to have their picture taken by the entrance signs. Through the Monument travel management planning efforts, some redundant, unnecessary, or unused roads may be converted to trails.

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Site: CRMO

RECREATION

☒ Focus national, regional, and local tourism efforts to reach diverse audiences and young people and to attract visitors to lesser-known parks.

☒ Increase visitation by 25 percent at lesser-known parks through a national tourism effort aimed at helping people to discover the breadth of parks and experiences.

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve will create linkages to attract visitors from icon Parks such as, Yellowstone NP and Grand Teton NP, which are located just east of the Monument. The Monument will develop a Southern Idaho Parks Newspaper in concert with Hagerman Fossil Beds NM, Minidoka, NM, and City of Rocks NR, which will be distributed at each location. The Monument will work with state and local tourism councils to elevate appeal of the Monument as a tourism destination. In addition, the Monument will work towards the establishment of a Visitor Center, located near the southern end of the Monument (off of the I-84 corridor), which will be funded and staffed by many federal and state agencies, and local tourism partners.

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Site: CRMO

EDUCATION

☒ Introduce young people and their families to national parks by using exciting media and technology.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The developed area of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve has a small seven-mile loop drive with many trails and exhibits along the road. The Monument will develop an Audio Tour for the loop drive using various media and newer technologies such as, Compact Discs, Podcasts, Download Tours, and Antenna audio.

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Site: CRMO

EDUCATION

☒ Promote life-long learning to connect generations through park experiences.

☒ Enroll an additional two million children in the Junior Ranger program.

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve is a member of the Idaho Space Grant Consortium, a NASA affiliated program. In addition, we have a relationship with the NASA education community as a result of the recent "Earth to Sky" Workshop at the NASA Ames Research Center.

The Monument will design a booklet that describes what kids must do to become a Jr. Ranger ("Lunar Rangers"). It will invite kids to follow in the footsteps of the Apollo astronauts and contemporary scientists who have studied and continue to study this unearthly landscape in order to learn more about Craters of the Moon, the Moon and beyond. It will provide kids, scout groups and others an opportunity to actively engage with the resource by providing them with a focus for their visit and an incentive to complete the activities within the booklet in the form of a "mission patch."

Approximately 4000 children annually will earn a patch and develop an increased understanding and appreciation of the National Park System in general, and Craters of the Moon National Monument specifically through completion of the "Lunar Ranger" activities.

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Site: CRMO

PROFESSIONALISM

☒ Promote a safety and health culture for all employees and visitors.

☒ Reduce the number of employee lost-time incidents and serious visitor injuries by 20 percent.

The Monument will work towards a goal to reduce the employee and visitor injury and accident rates to zero for a 5-year average. The Management Team and every employee will continue to stress employee and visitor safety as the top priority. On a frequent basis, the Management Team will communicate the importance of employee and visitor safety and will take corrective actions to maintain a safe working environment, and maintain safe employee and visitor behavior. The Monument will restore roving patrols, school group orientation talks, and other programs and activities making visitors aware of hazards in the Monument. Additional Law Enforcement Patrols will be conducted in high visitation areas to deter unsafe visitor behavior.

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Site: CRMO

PROFESSIONALISM

☒ Model what it means to work in partnership.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

In 2000, Craters of the Moon National Monument was expanded from roughly 54,000 acres to approximately 738,000 acres, with the lands to be managed cooperatively by the National Park Service (NPS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Currently, the NPS and BLM are actively pursuing seamless management strategies for the Monument through partnerships. For example, the BLM provides overall fire suppression coverage and has assigned a Fire Management Officer for the Monument. The NPS serves as lead on information, interpretive signing, and kiosks. The NPS and BLM coordinate efforts on invasive weed eradication and prevention, with federal, state, county, and private partners.

Future cooperation and partnership opportunities include the establishment of a Visitor Center, located near the southern end of the Monument, which will be funded and staffed by many federal and state agencies, and local tourism partners.

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